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RIDE TRI-RAIL TO TWO GREAT SOUTH FLORIDA EVENTS

EARTH DAY 2006

The City of Deerfield Beach will host Earth Day 2006 on Saturday, April 22 at the city's main beach area between Southeast 2nd Street and Hillsboro Boulevard. Earth Day 2006 is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



The event will feature art work submitted by area students using recycled materials, as well as hybrid-car demonstrations, solar-car races and a visit by the Magic School Bus. Additional entertainment includes a fashion show, student choir performance, a show presented by South Florida Parenting Magazine and a performance of the Wartville Wizard Litter Prevention Play. Additionally, free prizes, trees, recycled paint and more will be given away during the event (certain giveaways will be reserved for Broward County residents).

For event information contact the City of Deerfield Beach at 954-480-4454. For travel information contact the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority/Tri-Rail Customer Service Representatives at 1-800-TRI-RAIL.

HOW TO GET THERE: Take Tri-Rail to the Deerfield Beach Station and board Broward County Transit Route 92 eastbound to the event.

REGGAE FEST 2006 CARIBBEAN CARNIVALE

Reggae Fest 2006, the Caribbean Carnivale, is coming to Bryant Park in Lake Worth on April 8 and 9. The two-day event will feature Caribbean food, music, dancing and performances by the famous Mocko Jumbie Stilt Dancers. Watch Buzz the Sandman create a masterpiece sand sculpture and see Red Stripe's Reggie Ambassador on Sunday. Admission is only \$5 for adults; children 12 and under are free. Each adult admission ticket purchase comes with a chance to win two free tickets to Jamaica! For more information, call 561-582-4401 or visit the website at www.lwchamber.com.



HOW TO GET THERE: Take Tri-Rail to the Lake Worth Station and board a free festival trolley to the event.

March 2006

onboard

The latest news from the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, a partnership between Broward, Miami-Dade & Palm Beach counties.

THERE IS LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Joseph Giulietti

I am finally able to write to you with the news that we are reaching the end of construction for the Segment 5 Project, although work still continues with the New River Bridge Project. We want to increase the number of trains we are running now, rather than wait for the construction of the New River Bridge to be completed. We have successfully reached an agreement with our partners on the South Florida Rail Corridor to begin this additional service, with a re-evaluation of the approved enhancements in 60 days.

Times have been difficult since we issued the "Notice to Proceed" for the Segment 5 Project on January 14, 2002. When we began this final phase of construction, we were faced with the decision of whether to simply shut service down altogether and complete construction within a short timeframe, or schedule a longer construction period and continue to operate trains at whatever level of service possible. We decided that our passengers would be best served by continuing to run trains, in spite of the seemingly endless negative impacts that occurred.

Now that all double tracking is in place, with the exception of the two-mile stretch at the New River Bridge, we will be able to

increase the number of trains from 30 to 40 per day, a 33 percent increase in weekday operations. We will be running some 20 and 30-minute headways during rush hours, as well as filling in the midday gap so there will be a train every hour.

We will also be adding trains on the weekends. We will be operating trains on two-hour headways on Saturday and Sunday, making it even more convenient for leisure travelers to get out and explore the region. These additional trains will be operating in time to serve two of the biggest outdoors events in South Florida - SunFest and the Air & Sea Show.

As new locomotives, coaches and Diesel Multiple Units arrive, and as the New River Bridge Project is completed, we will continue to add service whenever possible until we reach the full complement of 48 trains per day, Monday through Friday.

Our next challenge will be to finally take over the dispatching of the SFRC from CSX Transportation. Until we are in charge of dispatch and maintenance, we cannot be completely in control of your commute. With construction almost completed, discussions have resumed in earnest at the highest level of state government to facilitate this transition.

I want to thank each of you for staying



SFRTA Executive Director Joseph Giulietti greets a group of Canadian residents who enjoy riding Tri-Rail to their favorite South Florida attractions.

with us during what at times has seemed an impossible journey. Your patience, understanding, and even criticism, are sincerely appreciated by the Board of Directors and staff of the SFRTA. We still have a way to go, but we will continue to attempt to increase the number of trains, as safely and expeditiously as we can. We hope you find that our first step toward increasing trains in March provides you with many more options to meet your needs. Please continue to bear with us as we look forward to reaching even more milestones together in the near future.

(Continued on next page)

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HAY LUZ AL FINAL DEL TÚNEL

UN MENSAJE DE NUESTRO DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO

Me complace poder anunciarles finalmente que estamos terminando la construcción del Proyecto Segmento 5, si bien aún se continuará trabajando en el Proyecto del Puente New River. En consecuencia, preferimos incrementar el número de trenes en circulación ahora en lugar de esperar a terminar la construcción del Puente New River. Hemos logrado un exitoso acuerdo con nuestros socios en el Corredor Ferroviario del Sur de Florida para comenzar a prestar este servicio adicional, con una reevaluación de las mejoras aprobadas en un plazo de 60 días.

Hemos atravesado momentos difíciles desde que emitíramos la "Notificación de Procedimiento" del Proyecto Segmento 5, aquél 14 de Enero de 2002. Al emprender esta última etapa de la obra, tuvimos que optar entre dejar de prestar el servicio y completar la obra en un corto período de tiempo o diagramar un proyecto de obra más largo y continuar prestando el servicio al mejor nivel posible. Entendimos que íbamos a prestar un mejor servicio a nuestros pasajeros si continuaban circulando los trenes, a pesar de la cantidad de efectos negativos que se sucedieran casi sin fin.

Hoy, una vez instaladas las dobles vías, a excepción de las dos millas del Puente New River, podremos incrementar la cantidad de trenes en circulación de 30 a 40 por día; es decir un 33 % de incremento en la operación semanal. En horarios pico circularán trenes con frecuencia de 20 a 30 minutos, y se cubrirá el mediodía de modo que haya un tren cada una hora.

También se agregarán trenes los fines de semana. Los Sábados y Domingos habrá trenes cada dos horas, de modo que la gente pueda salir de paseo y disfrutar de la región. Este nuevo servicio de trenes se inaugura justo a tiempo para dos de los eventos al aire libre más grandes del Sur de Florida - el SunFest y el Air & Sea Show.

A medida que vayan llegando las nuevas locomotoras, vagones y Unidades Múltiples Diesel, y se complete el Proyecto del Puente New River, seguiremos incrementando la frecuencia del servicio hasta alcanzar el objetivo de 48 trenes por día de Lunes a Viernes.

Nuestro próximo desafío será finalmente hacernos cargo del servicio del SFRC (Corredor Ferroviario del Sur de Florida, por

sus siglas en inglés) en lugar de CSX Transportation. Hasta que no nos hagamos cargo de la prestación y el mantenimiento del servicio, no podremos estar completamente a cargo de su transporte diario.

Ahora que la obra está casi culminada, se han retomado las negociaciones en los más altos niveles de gobierno para agilizar la transición.

Quiero agradecer a cada uno de ustedes por haber estado con nosotros durante lo que por momentos parecía un viaje imposible. La Junta Directiva y todo el staff de la Dirección General de Transporte del Sur de Florida (SFRTA, por sus siglas en inglés) valora sinceramente su paciencia, comprensión e incluso su crítica. Aún queda un largo camino por recorrer, pero seguiremos intentando incrementar la cantidad de trenes, de la manera más segura y rápida en que podamos.

Esperamos que nuestro primer paso hacia el incremento del número de trenes en Marzo le brinde mayores opciones para satisfacer sus necesidades. Acompáñenos en nuestro intento de alcanzar juntos nuevos hitos en el futuro.

SA PAP PRAN LONTAN POU SOLEY LA LEVÉ MEN YON MESAJ EKZEKITIF DIREKTE YA VOYÉ

Mwen kab finalman ékri ou pou m fè ou konen ké nou prèske fini ak konstriksyon "Segment 5 Project, byen ké nap kontinyé travay "New River Bridge Project" ya. Nou vlé mété plis tren nan sikilasyon tou swit olié ké nou tan ké réparasyon pon "New River Bridge" la fini. Nou fé yon antant ak asosyés nou yo ki nan South Florida Rail Corridor pou nou kòmansé nouvo sèvis sa-a, ké nap kab ré-evalyé nan 60 jou.

Nou jwen anpil difikilté dépi ké nou té mété komuniké pou demaré "Segment 5 Project" ya déyo, 14 janvye 2002. Lè nou kòmansé faz final konstriksyon an, pi gwo pwoble kóu te rankontré sé tè désidé si nou dwé fèmen sèvis tren yan nèt pou n té kap fini travay la pi vit, ousnon kité tren yan kontinyé roulé, éki ap fè travay konstriksyon



Joseph Giulietti thanks Narendra Gupta, one of Tri-Rail's first passengers, for continuing to ride in spite of construction delays.

diré pi lontan.
Nou té désidé pou kité tren yan fonksyoné pandan ké travay yo ap fèt, paské li té plis nan avantaj pasajé nou yo.

Konyé ya ké tou 2 ray tren yo fini, sòf konstiksyon 2 mil ralonj pon "New River Bridge" ya, nap kab mété plis tren sou ray la, apèprè 30 a 40 tren pa jou, yon ogmantasyon de 33% padan jou nan sémen yo. Tren nou yo ap pasé ant 20 ou 30 minit avan lè nan moman ké gen anpil trafik, anplis nap rezoud pwoble tren ki kon pa fonksyoné nan mitan jounen yan, konsa nap gen yon tren chak inèd tan.

Na pral mété plis tren lè samdi ak dimanch. Tren nou yo ap pasé chak dezèd tan lè samdi ak dimanch. Sa ap ran li pi fasil pou moun ki bezwen vizité zòn nan. Nouvo tren sa yo ak gentan paré pou 2 pi gwo koujay sa yo ké nou fété nan lakou Sid Floride - Sun Fest é Air Sea Show.

Pandan ké lokomotiv nèf nou yo, gwo bus é miltip inité dizèl nou yo ap kòmansé sèvis, é pwojè "New River Bridge" la fini, nap kontinué ajoute plis sèvis dépi nou kapab, jiskaské nou rivé jewn objektif nou ki sé 48 tren pa jou, de lindi jiska vandredi.

Lòt gwo défi ké nou pral levé sé lè nou pran kontwòl depatman Dispatch SFRC nan men CSX Transportation. Tout tan nou ponkò pran kontrol depatman dispatch é entretiyen yo nou ponkò ka gen kontwòl total kapital sou sèvis transpò ou. Jounen jodi ya kòm travay konstriksyon yo prèske fini, nou rekòmansé negosyé seriézman ak gwo chéf nan gouvenman Eta Floride la pou tout chanjman sa yo ka pasé dous.

Mwen ta renmen remèsé ou deské ou kimbé men ak nou nan tout moman difisil sa yo ké nou sot pasé. Konsèy Diréksyon ak ampliye SFRTA yo aprésyé pazyans ou, kompréyansion ou é mem kritik ou. Sé vré ké nou rété anpil travay pou nou fè, men nap kontinyé déployé jéfo nou pou mété plis tren nan sèvis, san pèdi tan, ak anpil sékirité. Nou swéte premyé pa sa ké nou fè pou n mété plis tren nan sèvis pandan mwa mas la kap ofri ou pi plis chwa ak posibilité. Souplé kontinyé kembé men ak nou pandan ké nap vansé ansanm pou nou kap monté piwo nan jou kap vini yo.

AMERICAN AIRLINES RECEIVES PREMIER AWARD

Tri-Rail's Employer Discount Program continues to grow as more and more businesses enroll so that their employees can enjoy the many benefits of the value-added program. In recognition of Tri-Rail's active business partners, Tri-Rail recently launched its premier Employer Discount Program "Award of Excellence" and American Airlines has been selected as the first award recipient.

American Airlines has been an avid supporter of public transit for many years. American Airlines' staff became involved in Tri-Rail's EDP 11 years ago when they realized how much money employees would save by riding the train. Over the years, their involvement in the program has grown to include more than 300 employees, and they are continually encouraging others to use Tri-Rail, as well.

"The bottom line is that riding Tri-Rail and being involved in the Employer Discount Program saves money," said Paul Esquinlin, southeast divisional manager of the Employee Assistance Program at American Airlines. "Tri-Rail is the simplest solution to saving gas, avoiding wear and tear on your car and enjoying a relaxing ride to work in the company of great people."



METRORAIL EXTENSION EARNS FAVORABLE FEDERAL RATING

Miami-Dade Transit's North Corridor Metrorail Expansion Project has achieved a major milestone in its quest for federal and state matching funds.

The North Corridor project recently received a favorable rating in the Federal Transit Administration's Fiscal Year 2007 New Starts project ratings, indicating that the FTA has determined that the project is progressing favorably, an important step toward qualifying for a 50 percent funding commitment from the federal government.

The favorable rating was also very important because it locked in a 25 percent funding commitment from the state, which translates into \$228 million. The remaining 25 percent would come from Miami-Dade County's half-penny surtax, overwhelmingly approved by voters in November 2002 to fund the People's Transportation Plan.

The North Corridor will extend Metrorail 9.5 miles from the existing Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza Metrorail Station along Northwest 27th Avenue, to the Broward County line, and is projected for completion in 2012 if federal funding comes through.



(L-R) Wanda Maldonado, Paul Esquinlin and Donna Williams from American Airlines support Tri-Rail and encourage participation in the Employer Discount Program.

EMPLOYERS SUPPORT PRE-TAX PROGRAM

Another way for employers to ease the commute for their workers is by participating in the federal government's Transit Commuter Benefit Program. Employers can allow their employees to purchase transit passes, or they can cover qualified vanpool commuting costs by deducting the monies from their paychecks each pay period. The federal law exempts the first \$105 per month in transit benefits from federal income and payroll taxes, so the employer is able to provide employees with a tax-free transportation bonus. Pre-tax savings can equal as much as \$1,260 per year.

Tax savings are also available to employers if they pay for the cost of their employees' commute. Companies can buy transit passes from local agencies and distribute the passes, without charge, to employees who sign up for the program. They get the tax break and the gratitude of their workers. It's a win-win situation for everyone!

For more information about transit commuter benefits, contact Donna Fortier, Tri-Rail's Employer Discount Program Coordinator, at 954-788-7938.

American Airlines was chosen as the recipient of this honor because of the staff's ongoing support of Tri-Rail over the years. The staff created fun and exciting ways to get employees interested in commuting by train so that they were able to take advantage of the discount program.

Based in Dallas, Texas, American Airlines is the world's largest airline. American Airlines serves 250 cities in more than 40 countries with approximately 3,900 flights daily. Nearly 9,000 people are employed at the company's Miami headquarters, alone.

Tri-Rail salutes American Airlines' staff for their continued support of Tri-Rail and the EDP. American Airlines will be awarded the first EDP "Award of Excellence" and officially recognized by the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority Board of Directors, during an upcoming meeting.

If you are interested in nominating your company for next quarter's EDP "Award of Excellence," log onto www.tri-rail.com and access the banner on the Home Page to submit your application.